

GREATER BOSTON HEARING SURVEY RESULTS
June 11, 2003

Number of Surveys Received:..... 29

How participants learned of the hearing:

Word of mouth.....	12
Flyer.....	3
Newspaper.....	3
Advertisement.....	2

Other:

E-mail.....	8
Mailing.....	1

Which issues do you think the MCSW should address in the coming year:

Violence against women.....	20
Housing.....	17
Economic development/stability.....	16
Health care.....	16
Child Care.....	15
Education.....	12
Welfare reform.....	12
Girls issues.....	10
Elder Care.....	8
Discrimination in the workplace.....	5
Wage equity.....	5
Transportation	3

Other:

1. Homelessness and housing.....	1
2. Income disparity, racism, homophobias, poverty and lack of opportunity.....	1
3. Revenue-progressive tax reform and corporate tax loopholes...	1
4. Immigrants rights and benefits.....	1
5. Abortion rights-no more parental consent laws!.....	1
6. Teen pregnancy-teen dating violence.....	1

Demographic information

Single.....	14
Married.....	6
Unknown.....	5
Divorced.....	2
Partner.....	2

Employed.....	16
Unknown.....	5
Unemployed/student....	4
Working student.....	3
Unemployed.....	1

Wages:

\$0-\$10k.....	6
\$10-\$20k.....	3
\$20-\$30k.....	4
\$30-\$40k.....	4
\$40-\$50k.....	3
\$50k and above	3
Unknown.....	6

For those issues that impact you the most, what changes do you believe are most needed?

- Education for all immigrants and continual bilingual education.
- Affordable childcare
- Support for employers in supporting staff with child care issues.
- In these difficult economic times, women need help with navigating and solving their initial problems. I believe (and have seen in my life) that economic opportunity is the answer to many problems and we must continue to support women in the workplace. A job, a roof over one's head and decent childcare are priorities that everybody should aspire to, and this ultimately helps all of society.

- We need to stop cutting the issues up into smaller and smaller slices, and affirm in concrete terms our commitment to some standard of care and quality of life for all MA residents. —Discussion and campaign to restore revenues does this. There may be other sorts of comprehensive or integrated campaigns that make sense.
- Access to justice and resources (social).
- Affordable housing for seniors (safe and adequate).
- The Women's Commission's voice needs to be louder. That would be best for all these issues. Flyers at residences, complexes to share about these hearings. Especially a Boston hearing, this should be packed. Collaborate with direct service organizations. Current collaborates are great, but do they do direct service to women?
- Development of affordable housing and health care-for those who are working or not working.
- Particularly in areas of workforce development and family self-sufficiency, there needs to be more funding for training programs, specifically for low-income mothers. There needs to be more outreach awareness of professional development programs for it.
- I think health care is the most needed changes.
- Find a way to structure (formally) women's voices into decision-making bodies-formation of grassroots based boards that are really listened to – budget advocacy.
- To get good education where age should not matter. To get good health care if you are from another state. Let's be able to get service, and not make it hard to get housing, to be able to choose where ever you want to get housing.